Through a recent notification Ministry of Commerce has made tourism service providers including Heritage Hotels eligible for recognition as Export House etc. on earning specified amount of free foreign exchange and entitling them to such benefits as specified in chapter 12 of the Handbook of Procedures (Vol. I) of the Ministry of Commerce.

Opening of New Tourist Offices Abroad

5463. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to open a new Tourism office in South Korea, Moscow, Israel and other places in the World;

(b) whether Government have done any activity analysis of tourism offices abroad; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): (a) Government have already opened tourism offices in Moscow and Tel-Aviv. South Korea is currently being looked after by tourism office in Tokyo.

(b) and (c) Activity analysis of Tourism offices is an ongoing process.

Development of tourist spots

5464. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any National Action Plan or Policy for the development of tourism spot centres in the State of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of fund earmarked and released for the development of tourism sector in the State during the last five years and till-date, year-wise;

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): (a) and (b) National Action Plan for Tourism was formulated during 1992 for development of tourism in the country as a whole. Main features of the National Action Plan were:

— Development areas on a selective basis for integrated growth along with marketing of destinations to ensure optimal use of existing infrastructure.

— Restructuring and strengthening the institutions for development of human resources.

— Evolving a suitable policy for increasing foreign tourist arrivals and foreign exchange earnings.

(c) Details of year-wise amount sanctioned as Central financial assistance to Uttar Pradesh for tourism projects during the last five years are as under:—

(Rupees in lakhs)

Year	Amount Sanctioned	Amount released
1995-96	31.10	25.55
1996-97	273.02	116.85
1997-98	221.10	78.17
1998-99	869.85	350.14
1999-2000	755.45	176.11

Pending tourism proposals from Uttar Pradesh

†5465. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of proposals are pending with the Cental Government for development of tourism sector in the State of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise;

(c) the details of steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) what new initiatives have been taken by Government to encourage tourism in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): (a) to (d) Development of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Government. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central financial assistance for tourism projects prioritised in consultation with State Governments every year.

Prioritised project proposals are sanctioned when they are recieved in complete shape in the prescribed format. The following tourism projects

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.